

an endless belt configured to be rotated with an inner surface thereof sliding over a surface of said heater;

a pressure roller arranged at a position opposite to said heater relative to said endless belt, said pressure roller being held for rotation in contact with said endless belt under pressure to form a nip therebetween; and

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end a heater controller configured to change an amount of heat produced by said heater in accordance with at least one of a size and a thickness of the different sized toner images on the recording sheet,

wherein, when said recording sheet is brought to said nip with said unfixed toner image facing said endless belt, said pressure roller applies pressure to said recording sheet against said endless belt so that said unfixed toner image is fixed on said recording sheet with heat by said heater as said recording sheet is transferred by movement of said endless belt and said pressure roller.

16. (Three Times Amended) A fixing apparatus, comprising:

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cont'd heating means for heating an unfixed toner image having different sized toner images formed with toner on a recording sheet in accordance with image information, said heating means having a line shape orthogonal to a direction in which said recording sheet is transferred;

endless belt means for being rotated with an inner surface thereof sliding over a surface of said heating means;

pressure roller means being held for rotation in contact with said endless belt means under pressure to form a nip therebetween, said pressure roller means being arranged at a position opposite to said heating means relative to said endless belt means; and

heater controlling means for changing an amount of heat produced by said heating means in accordance with at least one of a size and a thickness of the different sized toner images on the recording sheet,

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end wherein, when said recording sheet is brought to said nip with said unfixed toner image facing said endless belt means, said pressure roller means applies pressure to said recording sheet against said endless belt means so that said unfixed toner image is fixed on said recording sheet with heat by said heating means as said recording sheet is transferred by movement of said endless belt means and said pressure roller means.

31. (Three Times Amended) A fixing method of image forming, comprising the steps of:

forming a nip between an endless belt and a pressure roller which are held for rotation in contact with each other under pressure;

C3 providing a heater at position inside said endless belt, in contact with said endless belt, and opposite to said pressure roller relative to said endless belt, said heater having a line shape orthogonal to a direction in which a recording sheet having an unfixed toner image having different sized toner images formed with toner in accordance with image information is transferred;

rotating said endless belt and said pressure roller, said endless belt sliding over a surface of said heater by rotation;

transferring said recording sheet to said nip, said recording sheet being in an orientation in which said toner image faces said endless belt; and

changing an amount of heat produced by said heater in accordance with at least one of a size and a thickness of the different sized toner images on the recording sheet when said toner image is brought to said heater.

43. (Amended) A fixing method as defined in Claim 31, wherein said controlling step stops energizing said heater during a time when a non-image region between two adjacent toner image lines in said recording sheet is brought close to said heater.

44. (Amended) A fixing method as defined in Claim 31, wherein said controlling step energizes said heater during a time when a region of said toner image in said recording sheet is brought close to said heater.

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45. (Amended) A fixing method as defined in Claim 31, wherein said controlling step energizes said heater with an electric power reduced by 5% or more during a time when a non-image region between two adjacent toner image lines in said recording sheet is brought close to said heater.

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46. (Twice Amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:
an image forming mechanism configured to form a toner image having different sized toner images with toner on a recording sheet in accordance with image information;
a heater having a line shape orthogonal to a direction in which said recording sheet carrying an unfixed toner image formed by said image forming mechanism is transferred;
an endless belt configured to be rotated with an inner surface thereof sliding over a surface of said heater;
a pressure roller arranged at a position opposite to said heater relative to said endless belt, said pressure roller being held for rotation in contact with said endless belt under pressure to form a nip therebetween; and

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end

a heater controller configured to change an amount of heat produced by said heater in accordance with at least one of a size and a thickness of the different sized toner images on the recording sheet,

wherein, when said recording sheet is brought to said nip with said unfixed toner image facing said endless belt, said pressure roller applies pressure to said recording sheet against said endless belt so that said unfixed toner image is fixed on said recording sheet with heat by said heater as said recording sheet is transferred by movement of said endless belt and said pressure roller.

61. (Three Times Amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:

image forming means for forming a toner image having different sized toner images with toner on a recording sheet in accordance with image information;

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heating means for heating an unfixed toner image formed with toner on a recording sheet in accordance with image information, said heating means having a line shape orthogonal to a direction in which said recording sheet is transferred;

endless belt means for being rotated with an inner surface thereof sliding over a surface of said heating means;

pressure roller means being held for rotation in contact with said endless belt means under pressure to form a nip therebetween, said pressure roller means being arranged at a position opposite to said heating means relative to said endless belt means; and

heater controlling means for changing an amount of heat produced by said heating means in accordance with at least one of a size and a thickness of the different sized toner images on the recording sheet,

wherein, when said recording sheet is brought to said nip with said unfixed toner image facing said endless belt means, said pressure roller means applies pressure to said